

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-36, 38-48 and 50-75 are now pending, wherein claims 1, 2, 15-18, 21-34, 36, 38-44 and 50-57 are amended and claims 37 and 49 are canceled.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 64-75 are allowed and that claims 1-63 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants would also like to thank Examiner Patel and SPE Sough for their time and courtesy during the personal interview conducted with the undersigned on February 15, 2007. The following summarizes the substance of the interview.

Claims 34, 36-44 and 50-55 are objected to for minor informalities. These claims have been amended to address the issues raised in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are not narrowing amendments. Since the claims have been amended in the manner suggested in the Office Action, withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The indefiniteness rejection is due to the recitation of the term “substantially” in connection with the phrase “substantially contiguous”. As discussed during the personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the specification and the interpretation that one of ordinary skill in the art would have given, this phrase does not render the claims indefinite.

Nevertheless, in the interest of expediting prosecution and placing the application in condition for allowance, Applicants have deleted the phrase “substantially contiguous” from the claims. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments place the application in immediate condition for allowance, and that the rejection of these claims for indefiniteness should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the deletion of the phrase “substantially contiguous” is being made solely to resolve the indefiniteness issues, this phrase is not necessary to distinguish over the prior art and Applicants intend that the claims encompass both contiguous and substantially contiguous disk writes.

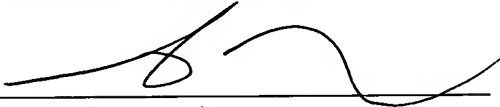
Serial No. 10/812,990
Amendment Dated: February 21, 2007
Reply to Office Action Mailed: December 7, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 101610.55985US

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101610.55985US).

Respectfully submitted,

February 21, 2007



Stephen W. Palan
Registration No. 43,420

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
SWP:crr
2934860